

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

ADVISORY

SOUTH DAKOTA ANIMAL INDUSTRY BOARD

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FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE FACTS:

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is caused by a fast-spreading virus, and all cloven-footed animals are susceptible to the disease. Nearly 100% of the animals in an exposed herd will become ill, and young animals may die from the disease.

***FMD does not affect people (only certain animals).**

These animals would include:

- *Cattle
- *Buffalo
- *Sheep/Goats
- *Elk and Deer
- *Swine
- *Any other split-toe animals

What does FMD look like?

Blisters (vesicles) may form in the animal's mouth or muzzle, causing slobbering and drooling. Later, the blisters will break, forming raw patches or ulcers.

Blisters and sores also can develop on the animal's teats, causing mastitis in dairy cattle. Blisters on the feet result in lameness. Affected animals will be reluctant or unable to drink, eat or walk, and they will lose weight rapidly.

Swine and cattle usually will show signs of disease within two to seven days after being exposed to the virus. Sheep and goats may have only minimal clinical signs of disease after an incubation period of up to 14 days.

FMD Outbreaks Worldwide

Foot and Mouth Disease has been diagnosed in 34 countries during the past 18 months. The latest outbreaks have occurred in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Argentina and France. The only continents currently free of the disease are North America, Australia, and Antarctica.

Most of the affected countries are still battling FMD. Outbreaks disrupt animal industry, including the export of animals and animal products.

Once infected, animals become “virus factories”. The virus can become airborne and can be breathed in by nearby susceptible animals.

The disease also can be spread by animal movements, feed, utensils, vehicles, clothing, facilities, raw meat, animal products or milk, wastefood, and meat scraps. Even people, although not affected by the virus, can harbor the FMD virus for a period of time in their respiratory tract and thus act as carriers!

Economic Impact of FMD

Implications of FMD introduction:

- Consumers can lose confidence in the safety of meat food products, (even though meat is safe).
- Prohibitions on sale and shipment of animals and animal products.
- Eradication costs are very high. All animals exposed must be destroyed.
- Vaccines provide only temporary protection and revaccination needed at six-month intervals. Vaccinated animals must be slaughtered before international trade can be resumed.
- For at least three months after the eradication of an outbreak – or at least three months after the slaughter of the last vaccinated animal – an affected country is banned from shipping meat or meat products to international trading partners.

The US has regulations in place to prevent the introduction of FMD infected animals and animal products. But ...so did many of the currently affected countries!

- If you suspect a disease problem, report it immediately to your local veterinarian or regulatory animal health official. In the UK, the disease may have been present for three weeks prior to detection!
- FMD spreads fast! Early detection and reporting are critical. Don't move animals that may be affected! Stop all visitors from entering your premise, if you suspect a problem!

Traveling abroad? Take precautions:

- Don't travel to countries known to have FMD!
- Avoid contact with animals or areas where animals have been held for at least five days before returning to the US.
- Before returning to the US, launder or dry-clean all clothing, jackets or coats!
- If you have visited a farm abroad, or if you've traveled and live, work or plan to visit a farm in the US, shower, shampoo, and change into clean clothing. Wash or dry clean clothes – don't risk taking the FMD virus home on contaminated clothing!
- Remove all dirt or organic material from shoes, luggage, personal items, etc. Wipe the items with disinfectant.
- Don't bring prohibited products home.
- NO contact with livestock or wildlife for at least five days when you get home!
- Ask any visitors from FMD affected countries to delay planned visits to US farms.

Disinfectants for FMD

These products can be used effectively to disinfect for FMD:

- Sodium hydroxide (lye) solution (2 percent). Mix a 13-ounce can in five gallons of water.
- Sodium carbonate (soda ash) solution (4 percent). Mix one pound in three gallons of water.
- Citric acid 0.2 percent solution.
- Acetic acid (vinegar) 2 percent solution. Mix one gallon of vinegar (4 percent) in a gallon of water.
- Virkon S (Antec International) at a 1:200 dilution.
- Sodium Hypochlorite (household bleach). Mix three parts bleach to two parts water.

Don't Stall! Call!

Report suspicious cases immediately! Call the USDA's Veterinary Services at (605) 224-6186 OR South Dakota's State Veterinarian at (605) 773-3321.